

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, PO

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO LABOR PROGRAM

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A PROPOSAL FROM THE AFL-CIO FOR A TRADE UNION PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL. COST OF PROGRAM IS \$394,015. WE EXPECT AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP TO ASK IN VERY NEAR FUTURE FOR MEETING WITH GOVERNOR GILLIGAN TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL.

2. COPY OF PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT VIA POVENMIRE. ELEMENTS ARE IN SUMMARY: A. OBJECTIVE: CREATION OF A MECHANISM, THE FREE TRADE UNION INSTITUTE (FTUI) DESIGNED PRIMARILY TOWARDS THE TRAINING OF UNION LEADERS IN KEY INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS OF PORTUGAL. B. GOAL: ESTABLISH A GROUP OF WELL TRAINED ORGANIZERS THAT WOULD BE CAPABLE OF BUILDING DEMOCRATIC UNIONS, PARTICULARLY IN STRATEGIC AREAS AND INDUSTRIES WHERE THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS INFLUENTIAL.

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3. INSTITUTE WOULD DEVELOP PROGRAM WITH SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE NON-PARTISAN AND DEVOTE ITS EFFORTS PRIMARILY TO TRADE UNION EDUCATION INVOLVING BOTH THE PS AND PSD. IF THE PS AND PSD PARTIES DO NOT UNITE IN A JOINT EFFORT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE, SUCH A PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE PRESENT EXISTING INSTITUTIONS OR CENTERS WHICH BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES

HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRADE UNION EDUCATION.

4. ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE MAJOR AREAS OF THE ECONOMY, WITH PRIORITIES BEING ESTABLISHED TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO THOSE SECTORS WHERE THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS PREDOMINANT.

5. TRAINING WOULD INVOLVE APPROXIMATELY 50 PARTICIPANTS PER MONTH AT OUTSET WITH GRADUAL INCREASE TO ABOUT 100 PER MONTH. IN ADDITION, EIGHT TRADE UNION LEADERS WOULD BE SELECTED EACH YEAR TO RECEIVE ADVANCED TRADE UNION TRAINING IN THE U.S. AT EITHER THE AIFLD FRONT ROYAL INSTITUTE AND/OR THE AFL-CIO EDUCATION CENTER.

6. SECOND PART OF PROPOSAL DEALS WITH THE CREATION OF A UNION TO UNION PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE OF FTUI AND WOULD PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO SUCH UNIONS AS COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY AND AIRLINE CLERKS, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO DETERMINE WHAT ASSISTANCE COULD BE RENDERED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS.

7. BUDGET IS AS FOLLOWS: REGIONAL BUDGET TOTAL 1977-1978 \$394,015. SUPPORT FOR FTUI \$156,415; UNION TO UNION PROGRAM \$120,000; COUNTRY PROGRAM COSTS \$117,600.
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NOTE: ALTHOUGH THE BUDGET USED THE WORD REGIONAL, NOTHING IN THE PROPOSAL MAKES REFERENCE TO ANY REGIONAL ACTIVITY.
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